(b) whether it is a fact that her name was referred on 29th November, 1999, to the National Awards Committee for consideration of National award; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The recommendations for award to Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President.

The recommendsation for conferment of Bharat Ratna on Mataji Nirmala Devi referred to the Awards Committee, was forwarded to the Prime Minister's Office in December, 1999 for appropriate action.

Sophisticated arms for NE Millitant from ISI

3422. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the insurgent groups of the NE States are collecting sophisticated arms from ISI and other foreign agencies; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken so far to stop illegal collection of arms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Governments of Thailand, Myanmar and Bangladesh have been sensitised. As per available reports, these are the countries from and through which illegal flow of arms to the North Eastern States is taking place. Actionable intelligence is also being shared with these countries on a continuing basis. Other steps taken in this regard include gearing up of intelligence machinery and strengthening of the Border Security Force/Assam Rifles on the Indo-Bangladesh/Indo-Myanmar border.

Complaint lodged with the North Avenue Police Station

†3423. SHRI GOPALSINGH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) the number of complainmts received at the police station, North Avenue from the Members of Parliament and ex-Members of Parliament regarding theft an other matters;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the police with regard to the theft of cellular phones of Members of Parliament;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether an explanation is proposed to be called for, from concerned officers with regard to ignoring the complaints of members of Parliament and for not taking any serious action on such complaints so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) During the current year, Delhi Police registered two criminal cases on receipt of complaints from two members of Parliament that certain household articles had been stolen away from their respective official residences at North Avenue.

(c) Delhi Police have reported that no such complaint lodged by a Member of Parliament was received by them in the recent months.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Banned Militants Hideouts of NE States

3424. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some of the banned militant outfits of the NE States have base and hideouts in the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken initiative to open dialouge with the authorities of the neighbouring countries; and

(c) the details of the dialogue in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Reports indicate that there are camps in some of our neighbouring countries which are being used by North East insurgent groups for safe havens, sanctuary & training purposes.

(b) and (c) The matter has been taken up with the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar & Nepal. They have assured that they will not allow negative elements to use their territory for activities prejudicial to the interests of India.